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## **Virginia Airport Operators Council awards aviation scholarship**

*The John R. Lillard scholarship is given to a student who is preparing for a career in aviation*

NEWPORT NEWS — Jodi Balido, a senior at The Aviation Academy, an aviation magnet program at Denbigh High School and Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport, is the recipient of the 2004 John R. Lillard Scholarship. The \$1500 scholarship, sponsored by the Virginia Airport Operators Council (VAOC), is awarded to a Virginia high school senior who excels academically and has been accepted into a post secondary program that will prepare them for an aviation career. An exceptional student, Jodi has been accepted for enrollment in the aerospace engineering program at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona, Florida.

Presentation of the award was made at an evening ceremony held May 20 at the Aviation Academy's airport campus. Ken Brammer, of Delta Airport Consultants and Betty Wilson, of the Virginia Department of Aviation represented the VAOC at the event.

The mission of the Virginia Airport Operators Council is to promote the interests of airports in the Commonwealth of Virginia through legislation, regulatory compliance, and education. Its members are airport managers, sponsors, and others involved in the operation of Virginia's public-use airports.

The scholarship is named in honor of the late John R. Lillard, a dedicated aviation professional and member of the Virginia Airport Operators Council, whose career included positions with Eastern Airlines, Chesterfield County Airport, and Richmond International Airport.

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